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## TITLE

### QUICKLY AND SAFELY MAINTAINED SAND-FILTERING DEVICE

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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### Field of the Invention

The present invention relates in general to a quickly and safely maintained sand-filtering device.

### Description of the Related Art

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Referring to Fig. 1, a conventional sand-filtering device 2 for a sandblaster has a housing provided with an air intake 10 and an air outlet 12. The air intake 10 is connected to a sandblast machine 1. In the housing are provided a top plate 21, a bottom plate 22, a plurality of springs 23 and filtering sleeves 24. The top plate 21 and the bottom plate 22 are spaced apart to form a space 14, in which the filtering sleeves 24 are disposed. The filtering sleeves 24 are flexible and contain the springs 23. The spring 23 have hooks at their ends to hang the filtering sleeves 24 on the top plate 21. Further referring to Fig. 2, the bottom plate 22 is provided with a plurality of hollow cylinders 221. The bottom ends of the filtering sleeves 24 are tied to the hollow cylinders 221 via laces.

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The sand-filtering device 2 is arranged at the tail of the sandblast machine 1 to receive the used sands during the blasting process. The used sands enter the chamber 20 of the sand-filtering device 2. The air pump 27 pumps air in the sand-filtering device 2 out to carry the used sands upward so that the used sands adhere to the inner walls of the filtering sleeves 24. When the blasting process is finished, the air pump 27 stops. An oscillator 25 starts to horizontally swing the top plate 21

and then swing the springs 23. The springs 23 repeatedly hit the flexible filtering sleeves 24 from side to side so that the sands on the inner walls of the filtering sleeves 24 fall. A collecting bag 3 is provided under the filtering sleeves 24 to collect the sands.

However, repeated hits cannot separate all the sands from the filtering sleeves 24. A part of sands still adhere to the inner walls of the filtering sleeves 24. After months, sands accumulate so that the filtering sleeves 24 fail and need to be replaced with new ones. The top plate 21 and the bottom plate 22 are made of metal and permanently fixed in the sand-filtering device 2. Therefore, the top and bottom plates 21, 22 are not replaced. The life span of the filtering sleeve 24 depends on the amount of the used sand. A large amount of sands results in frequent replacement of filtering sleeves.

The filtering sleeve 24 is replaced in accordance with the following manner: The lace 26 is loosened and taken away from the filtering sleeve 24. Then, the filtering sleeve 24 is lifted to separate the hook of the spring 23 from the top plate 21. Then, the whole filtering sleeve 24 is thrown away. When the lace 26 is detached from the filtering sleeve 24, a large quantity of sands falls out and floats in the air. The fall-out sands are harmful to worker's health and the environment.

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#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a sand-filtering device of quick and safe maintenance for a sandblaster that solves the above-mentioned problems.

The sand-filtering device of the present invention includes a housing, a supporting plate, at least one filtering

sleeve, a division module and an air pump. The housing is connected to the sandblast machine to receive the sands. The supporting plate is detachably mounted in the housing. The filtering sleeve is hung on the supporting plate. The division module is detachably mounted in the housing. The division module has at least one passage connected to the filtering sleeve. The air pump pumps the sands through the passage into the filtering sleeve so that the sands are filtered by the filtering sleeve. To replace the filtering sleeve, the supporting plate and the division module are detached from the housing and directly thrown away together with the filtering sleeve. That is fast, efficient and safe.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The present invention can be more fully understood by reading the subsequent detailed description and examples with references made to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of a conventional sand-filtering device;

Fig. 2 depicts the bottom plate of the conventional sand-filtering device;

Fig. 3 depicts a sand-filtering device of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a perspective diagram of the division module of the sand-filtering device of the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view of the division module of Fig. 4 along line V-V; and

Fig. 6 depicts the division module of the present invention in a close state.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

Referring to Fig. 3, a sand-filtering device of the present invention has a housing 60 provided with an air intake 601 and an air outlet 602. The air intake 601 is connected to a sandblast machine 5. Two tracks 68, 69 are disposed in the housing 60 to support a supporting plate 61 and a division module 62. The supporting plate 61 and the division module 62 are spaced apart to define a space 604, in which a plurality of filtering sleeves 64 are disposed. The filtering sleeves 64 are flexible and contain springs 63. The springs 63 have hooks at their ends to hang the filtering sleeves 64 on the supporting plate 61. Further referring to Figs. 4 and 5, the division module 62 has a frame body 621 and a division plate 623. The frame body 621 is rectangular and hollow. On the top of the frame body 621 are provided with a plurality of hollow cylinders 622. On the bottom of the frame body 621 are provided a plurality of through holes 625. The division plate 623 is movably inserted in the frame body 621. A plurality of through holes 624 are provided on the division plate 623 to align with the bores 626 of the cylinders 622 and the through holes 625 of the frame body 621. Referring back to Fig. 3, the ends of the filtering sleeves 64 are tied to the hollow cylinders 622 of the division module 62 via laces 66.

The sand-filtering device 6 is arranged at the tail of the sandblast machine 5 to receive the processed sands during the sand blasting process. The processed sands first enter into the bottom of the sand-filtering device 6, then the air pump 67 pumps air in the sand-filtering device 6 out to carry the processed sands upward so that the processed sands adhere to the inner walls of the filtering sleeves 64. When the blasting process

is finished, the air pump 67 stops. An oscillator 65 starts to horizontally swing the supporting plate 61 and then swing the springs 63. The springs 63 repeatedly hit the flexible filtering sleeves 64 from side to side so that the sands on the inner walls 5 of the filtering sleeves 64 fall. A collecting bag 7 is provided under the filtering sleeves 64 to collect the sands.

However, hits cannot separate all the sands from the filtering sleeves 64. A part of sands still adhere to the inner walls of the filtering sleeves 64. After several months, sands 10 will accumulate so that the filtering sleeves 64 lose its normal function and need to be replaced with new ones. The filtering sleeve 64 of the present invention is replaced in accordance with the following manner: Referring to Fig. 5, the division plate 623 is pushed in direction A to change the positions of the through holes 624. As a result shown in Fig. 6, the hollow cylinders 622 are closed by the division plate 623. The sands do not leak out from the division module 62. Then, the supporting plate 61 and the division module 62 are drawn from the tracks 68 and 69 respectively, and then the supporting plate 61 and the 15 division module 62 are thrown away together with the filtering sleeves 64.

In the present invention, no laces 66 are released to replace the filtering sleeves 64, instead of directly throwing away the filtering sleeves 64, the supporting plate 61 and the 20 division module 62 and replaced them with new ones. The Maintenance for the sand-filtering device of the present invention is fast and efficient. Furthermore, the laces 66 are not detached. Therefore, the sands adhering to the filtering sleeves do not fall out. The worker's health and the environment 25 are protected.

While the invention has been described by way of example and in terms of the preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments. To the contrary, it is intended to cover various modifications and similar arrangements (as would be apparent to those skilled in the art). Therefore, the scope of the appended claims should be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and similar arrangements.